

# THE TRYAL OF

**Elizabeth Cellier,**

**THE  
Popish Midwife,**

*At the Old Bailey, Septemb. 11. 1680.*

**For Printing and Publishing the late Notori-  
ous Libel, Intituled, *Malice Defeated, &c.*  
Where she was found **GUILTY**.  
Together with her **SENTENCE****

**T**his Prodigy of Impudence not content to have *Lucy* escap'd on her former Tryal for *High Treason*, but being thereupon grown extravagantly vain and insolent, was by some of the Hellish Crew of *Jesuits* and *Fryars* put upon owning and publishing the above mentioned *Libel*, of their contrivance, pretending to give an account of her case, but being indeed most scandalous and false, on the Publick Justice of the Nation, his Majesty, the Lords of his most honourable Privy Council, the Judges of the Law, the Kings Evidence, the Gentlemen of her Jury, and in a word the whole Kingdom, except her own Trayterous Popish Faction; and as the matter of it was most *damnable* Falshoods, so did she very *scurvily* Midwife it into the World with *cheats* and *Lies*, send-  
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ding for several *Booksellers* to buy the worshipful *Copy*, (the precise price of which was an Hundred Guinnies) and to every one of them protesting on the Faith of a Catholick Woman, and Honour of her calling, that he had the *Maiden-head* on't, and was the first Man she ever offer'd it to; and afterwards buzz'd abroad, that such a Man offered her Forty Guinnies, and such an one Fifty, whereas in truth they were so far from offering her a Penny, that she could not for an Hundred Pounds have Brib'd them to meddle with one sheet of such Villany; and therefore she left herself out it to *Printers*, engaging with many Revererations to bear him harmless that did it, and pay all his Charges if any trouble happened; yet when he was questioned, very civilly denied that promise, and would not pay a Farthing of his Fees; and to give him his due, he was right enough served.

These petty Circumstances we mention, to give the World a taste of the *Honesty* and *Veracity* of this *Catholick Saint*, whose Pamphlet being seiz'd at the Press, she was carried before the *Council*, and bound over to answer it the first day of the next Term, (not to be of good Behaviour; but with an Impudence peculiar to herself and the Cause, the notwithstanding such restraint proceeded to compleat the Libel and published it. This so justly exasperated Authority, to see it self thus Braved and Affronted by the Baggage, that an *immediate Profection* was ordered, and an Indictment of *Misdemeanour* being exhibited against her to the Grand Jury for *Middlesex* at Hicks Hall, and by them found, on Friday the Twelfth Instant, she was forthwith apprehended and brought to the Sessions-house at the Old Bailey, where she behaved her self very *Malapertly*, and would fain have put off the Tryal till another Sessions; but being therein over-ruled by the Court, and ready to be taken into the *Reitrack* by the Keepers, she screamed as loud as her lying Impudence would make the World believe Mr. *Prance* did on the imaginary *Rack*, and seemed to have a great Antipathy against the smell of *Newgate*, and therefore offered several fellows for Bail on *Ground* was laid to be the Brother of *Nevil*, alias *Pain*, that *Habney Drudge*, whom they keep (as Birds are Caged to make them Sing) in Jail on purpose that he may be available to *Scrubble-Lies* for the party. But this Broomstaff Security being refused by the Court, she prayed leave to go forth with a Keeper to get better vapours in open Court, that within an hour she would return with Bail worth *thousands*. But it seems the *Vermin* were for quitting the House that they saw ready to tumble, for those that before encouraged her, were now loth to appear, and to the *displeasure* of the Court was forced to take up her Lodging for that Night in the *Enchanted Castle of Newgate*. It is observable that she then praying longer time, and insisting on the absence of her *Witnesses*, the Court told her they could not apprehend what *Witnesses* she could have occasion for, unless she would show what were the *Books* and for whom she wrote them, whereupon she loudly answered, -- *My Lord, I write it every Line, myself*. So Ambitious she was of being *Gossip* to the Spurious Libel, though, as well known to be *The whole Troops Child*; for though the *Romanical* *Sacral*, for whom the Gallows has groan'd ever since *January*, *Eight* might for a while Agent, yet C. and G. and several others, his probable Clubb'd other *Politick* *Noddies* towards him.

On Saturday September 11. in the afternoon she was brought to trial, where the learned and unbiassed *Baron* *Wesson* (being the only Judge present) heard the Cause, discharging his duty to the great satisfaction of all the numerous *Auditory*. The Indictment was for causing to be printed

and published a false, scandalous, and seditious Libel, and several of the most passages, as that of Racking Mr. *Prance*, &c. were recited. The Kings Council opened the matter excellently, shewed the desperate design of the Libel, to turn off the Popish Plot upon the Protestants, to vilify the Kings Evidence, to stifle the truth of Sir *Edmund Berry Godfrey's* Murder, and make the Nation and the Protestant Religion odious in Foreign Parts, by these lying stories of Racks and Tortures used upon poor Catholics. The Prisoner, though she publicly boasted her self to be the Authoress but yesterday, had the grace now as stoutly to deny it, and being urged with her to late Acknowledgment to the Court, replied, she *had not* done it, but *did* become that *William Hale Bench* to give Evidence. Nor needed it, the thing being otherwise sufficiently proved. For

1. A man testified that he bought one of the Books of her, and paid her for it, to whom she declar'd that they were her Books, and that she could have put much more into them, and did give him another small Libel into the bargain.

2. Mr. *Dunning*, that printed some Sheets of it, proved that he bargained with him to do it, promised to bear him harmless, ordered her Name to be printed in the Title-page, and that she sent for Sheets to have them corrected.

3. Mr. *Stevens* the Messenger, whose Industry first discover'd and seized it, prov'd that she own'd it to him, pretending at first that the Copy was her own hand-writing, but afterwards he saw her write, and found hers a scrambling ugly hand, far different from the Manuscript; and then she told him, she kept two men in her house, to write it as she dictated to them, of whom the notorious *Sing*, formerly a Confectioner and Intelligencer, was one.

4. Mr. *Prance* declar'd upon his Oath the utter falshood of that Malicious story of his being Rack'd or in any kind Tortured but that on the contrary he was very civilly Treated at all times by Capt. *Richardson*, and also by his Lady in the time of his sickness, and that he made his discovery freely and voluntarily, and was only led thereunto by the Power of Truth, and to disburthen his Conscience of so horrid a Crime. And Mr. *Boyc* and several others were present to have testified and confirmed the same, but it was not thought necessary, that *Lie of hers* Stabbing it self by its own improbability, and being so notoriously Contrary to the Laws and Practice of this Nation. 'Tis Popery that needs an Inquisition to support it, and delights in Cruelties and Tortures, and Extorts Confessions by Racks and Strapado's; the Protestant Religion and the generous English temper, disdain such Barbarities.

5. Mr. *Fowler* the Vintner upon his Oath inform'd the Court, with the grounds of his suspecting *Corral* the Coach-man mentioned in the Libel pag. 3. viz. From his own words, but denied utterly that he ever bid him lay it upon any, or told him of any Money that was to be got by it, or any thing of that kind, giving so punctual an account of the whole matter, that the Court was satisfied. Mr. *Fowler* did nothing but what became and was the duty of every honest Man in that affair.

As to the Prisoners defence, it was very inconsiderable, her Romantic Spirit was much abated, and she talk'd abundantly more like a *Midwife*, than such a *Politician* and *Stateswoman* as she would be accounted; only she called two Women and a Man as Witnesses, but two of them could say



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nothing material, the third was the beforementioned Coach-man's Wife, who said her Husband was at the time mentioned in *Newgate*, and had Irons on, but acknowledged she had access to him and never was beaten, or any thing of that kind, as in the Libel is pretended.

'Tis also observable, that the said Coach-man had upon Oath disown'd all that Tragical story that *Cellier* reports of him, but did not appear now in Court.

Then the *BARON* in a grave and solid discourse sum'd up the Evidence, and the Court being so full that the Jury could not conveniently come together to Consult, did for that reason withdraw, but presently return'd, and brought her in *Gilty*. At which the People gave a general shout, yet she had the Confidence, even after Conviction, to mov'd to be *Railed*; but that not being Grantable by Law, she was order'd back to *Newgate*, where she now remains, with much better accomodations from the *Captains* Civility, than she deserves or could expect from a Person she had so basely and callously abused, were not his *Generosity* as incomparable as her *Malice*.

On *Monday* the 13 of *Sept.* she received the judgment of the Court, which was to stand Three times in the *Pillory*, First at the *May-pole* in the *Strand*, Secondly in *Covent Garden*, and Thirdly at *Charing-cross*, and some of her Books to be Burnt at each place before her face by the Common Hangman, and also was fined 1000 *l.* and one Years imprisonment, and after that time expired, and the Fine paid, to give security for the good behaviour during Life.

There were at this Sessions Eleven Persons Condemned to die, Six Women and Five Men, one burnt in the hand, and Three to be Whipped.

F I N I S.

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